



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 4, Issue #7

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

25 June 2009

### **Pest Patrol Hotline**

A summary of current problems with insects is available this season via a toll-free hotline. Simply call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### **Cotton Situation**

As of 21 June 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 99% of the crop being planted, just behind where we were last year and the 5-yr average of 100%. Conditions were described as 5% excellent, 66% good, 26% fair, 2% poor, and 1% very poor for the crop. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### **Soybean Situation**

As of 21 June 2009, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 85% of the crop being planted, equal to where we were in 2008 and the 5-yr average. About 67% of soybeans have emerged, slightly behind where the crop was this time last year at 70% and the 5-yr average emergence of 72%. Conditions were described as 3% excellent, 86% good, 10% fair, and 1% poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### **News from Above the Lakes**

No news to report this week. Please email or call me with your observations and comments by Wednesday!

### **News from Below the Lakes**

Charles Davis, county agent in Calhoun County, informed me that he was just visiting with a local consultant "about how quiet bug wise it is in cotton right now. Not a creature is stirring...". Jonathan Croft, county agent in Dorchester County, stated that "this week while pulling soybean rust monitoring plot leaves I came across a few Japanese beetles and found some light feeding damage. Also found one soybean looper in this field. I have not seen or heard of any problems in cotton and what I have been by this week looks good. We do have some areas that could use a rain though. Joe Varn, county agent in Bamberg/Barnwell Counties, stated that "we need some rain...no new insect issues in cotton or soybeans."

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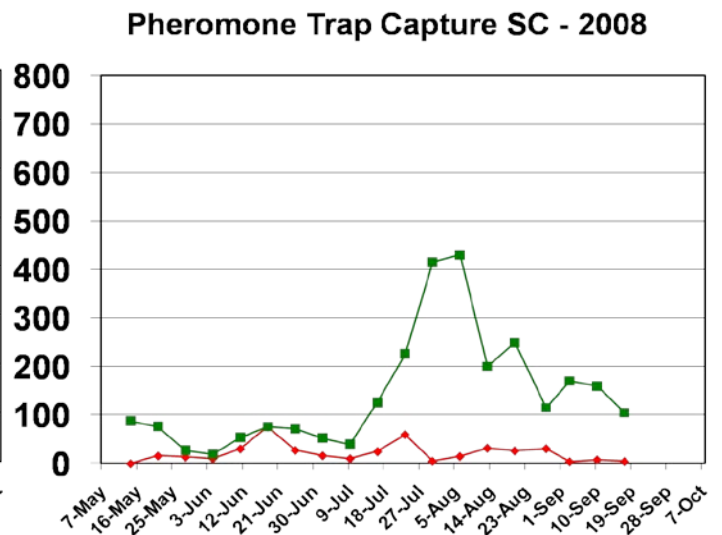
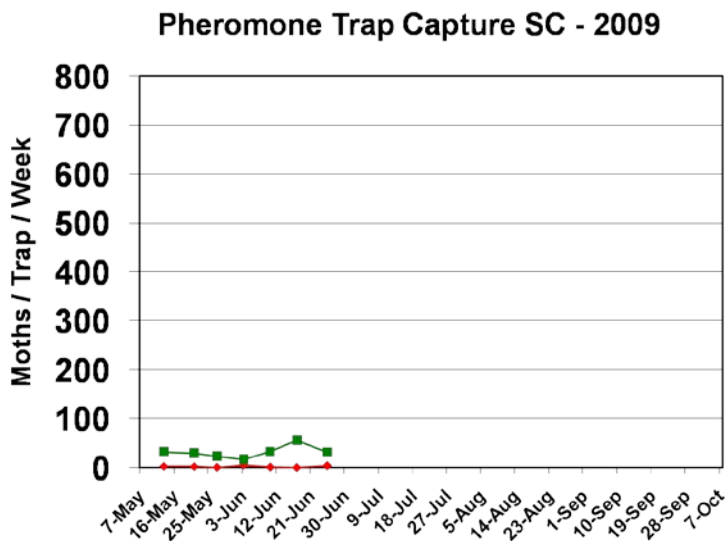


## **Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm**



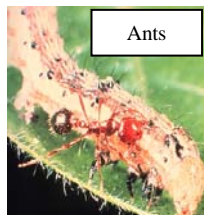
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. We trapped about 32 BW and 4.5 TBW moths per trap this past week. We captured about 56 BW last week.

So far, the numbers continue to look much like they did last year.



## **It is Quiet Out There...What's Next?**

It might seem quiet in fields of cotton and soybeans right now, but that is not the case. An expansion of “insurgents” and “friendly troops” is underway with insects and other arthropods (such as spider mites) that like to eat plants and insects that like to eat other insects, respectively. As more plant-feeding insects colonize fields, the food supply for carnivorous insects and other arthropods (such as spiders) grows. There are numerous plant feeders, such as thrips, aphids, plant bugs, just to name a few, that are building and providing food for increasing numbers of predaceous arthropods. This unfolding scenario is extremely important to the homeostasis of the ecosystem (i.e. balance of “good” and “bad” guys in the field). We need the buildup of natural enemies in cotton and soybeans to help with large increases of pest species that we typically see in July and August. Disruption of this beneficial complex of natural enemies with unnecessary applications of insecticides at this point in the season leads to problems with pest outbreaks. Some of the common natural enemies seen in cotton now are shown here.





**2009 SC Cotton Growers' Guide, Pest Management Handbook, and Insect Control Guides**

The 2009 South Carolina Cotton Growers' Guide is available from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/EC589.PDF>.

The 2009 Pest Management Handbook is available in limited quantities. Contact your local county office for availability. A \$10 fee might be charged for the handbook. You can also download the handbook from: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/index.html>

Clemson University Publications IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) and SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) are available free from your local county office in paper copy or online at: <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF> and <http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

**Need More Information?**

Log on to the following webpage to view important recommendations for cotton and soybean insect management, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor – Entomologist



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